

WHAT IS CLAIMED AS NEW AND IS DESIRED TO BE SECURED BY LETTERS
PATENT OF THE UNITED STATES IS:

1. A digital camera comprising:

a camera body;

5 an optical system having a lens positioned on a front of said camera body;

a display device positioned on a rear of said camera body; and

a first cover device configured to cover said display device.

10 2. The digital camera according to Claim 1, wherein said first cover device includes a cover member that is slidably actuated between an open position and a closed position.

3. The digital camera according to Claim 2, wherein said cover member is configured to be latched in the open position and in the closed position, and is configured to be spring biased.

15 4. The digital camera according to Claim 1, wherein said first cover device is configured to actuate a power switch to said digital camera when said first cover device is moved from a closed position to an open position.

5. The digital camera according to Claim 1, further comprising a second cover device that is configured to cover said lens.

20 6. The digital camera according to Claim 5, wherein said second cover device includes a cover member that is slidably actuated between an open position and a closed position.

7. The digital camera according to Claim 5, wherein said second cover device is configured to actuate a power switch to said digital camera when said second cover device is moved from a closed position to an open position.

8. The digital camera according to Claim 5, wherein said first cover device is mechanically coupled to said second cover device such that said first cover device and said second cover device are simultaneously actuated between an open position and a closed position.

5 9. The digital camera according to Claim 5, further comprising a flash device, said second cover device being configured to cover said flash device.

10 10. The digital camera according to Claim 5, wherein said lens is arranged at an upper edge of the front of said camera body and said second cover device includes a member to cover and uncover said lens by sliding in a horizontal direction at the upper edge of the front of said camera body.

15 11. The digital camera according to Claim 5, wherein said lens is arranged at an upper edge of the front of said camera body and said second cover device includes a member to cover and uncover said lens by sliding in a vertical direction at the upper edge of the front of said camera body.

20 12. A digital camera comprising:
a camera body;
an optical system having a lens positioned on a front of said camera body;
a display device positioned on a rear of said camera body; and
means for covering said display device.

25 13. The digital camera according to Claim 12, wherein said means for covering said display device includes a cover member that is slidably actuated between an open position and a closed position.

 14. The digital camera according to Claim 13, further comprising:
means for latching said cover member in the open position and in the closed

position; and

means for biasing said cover member toward the open position or the closed position.

15. The digital camera according to Claim 12, wherein said means for covering
5 said display device is configured to actuate a power switch to said digital camera when
said means for covering said display device is moved from a closed position to an open
position.

16. The digital camera according to Claim 12, further comprising means for
covering said lens.

10 17. The digital camera according to Claim 16, wherein said means for covering
said lens includes a cover member that is slidably actuated between an open position
and a closed position.

18. The digital camera according to Claim 16, wherein said means for covering
said lens is configured to actuate a power switch to said digital camera when
15 said means for covering said lens is moved from a closed position to an open position.

19. The digital camera according to Claim 16, further comprising means for
coupling said means for covering said display device to said means for covering said
lens such that said means for covering said display device and said means for covering
said lens are simultaneously actuated between an open position and a closed position.

20 20. The digital camera according to Claim 16, further comprising a flash
device, said means for covering said lens being configured to cover said flash device.

21. The digital camera according to Claim 16, wherein said lens is arranged at
an upper edge of the front of said camera body and means for covering said lens
includes a member to cover and uncover said lens by sliding in a horizontal direction at

the upper edge of the front of said camera body.

22. The digital camera according to Claim 16, wherein said lens is arranged at an upper edge of the front of said camera body and said means for covering said lens includes a member to cover and uncover said lens by sliding in a vertical direction at the upper edge of the front of said camera body.

23. A method for protecting a digital camera, the digital camera including a camera body, an optical system having a lens positioned on a front of the camera body, and a display device positioned on a rear of the camera body, said method comprising the step of:

covering the display device with a first cover device.

24. The method according to Claim 23, wherein the first cover device includes a cover member that is slidably actuated between an open position and a closed position.

25. The method according to Claim 24, wherein the cover member is configured to be latched in the open position and in the closed position, and is configured to be spring biased.

26. The method according to Claim 23, wherein the first cover device is configured to actuate a power switch to the digital camera when the first cover device is moved from a closed position to an open position.

27. The method according to Claim 23, further comprising the step of covering the lens with a second cover device.

28. The method according to Claim 27, wherein the second cover device includes a cover member that is slidably actuated between an open position and a closed position.

29. The method according to Claim 27, wherein the second cover device is configured to actuate a power switch to the digital camera when the second cover device is moved from a closed position to an open position.

5 30. The method according to Claim 27, further comprising the step of mechanically coupling the first cover device to the second cover device such that the first cover device and the second cover device are simultaneously actuated between an open position and a closed position.

31. The method according to Claim 27, wherein the second cover device is configured to cover a flash device provided on the digital camera.

10 32. The method according to Claim 27, wherein the lens is arranged at an upper edge of the front of the camera body and the second cover device includes a member to cover and uncover the lens by sliding in a horizontal direction at the upper edge of the front of the camera body.

15 33. The method according to Claim 27, wherein the lens is arranged at an upper edge of the front of the camera body and the second cover device includes a member to cover and uncover the lens by sliding in a vertical direction at the upper edge of the front of the camera body.

20 34. A digital camera comprising:
a camera body;
an optical system having a lens positioned on a front of said camera body;
a display device positioned on a top of said camera body; and
a first cover device configured to cover said display device.

35. A digital camera comprising:
a camera body;

an optical system having a lens positioned on a front of said camera body;
a display device positioned on a top of said camera body; and
means for covering said display device.

36. A method for protecting a digital camera, the digital camera including a
5 camera body, an optical system having a lens positioned on a front of said camera body,
and a display device positioned on a top of said camera body, said method comprising
the step of:

covering the display device with a first cover device.